

THE NEW YORK TIMES -

Moroccan road film subverts Hollywood stereotypes: (The) dichotomy between the representation and the reality of Morocco drives Slattery's charming paean to a country he clearly loves and makes "Casablanca Mon Amour" a thoughtful rejoinder to U.S. popular culture.

REORIENT- Middle Eastern Arts & Culture Magazine -

Casablanca Mon Amour presents a powerful critique of the rather odd affair between Hollywood and the Arab world, from both ends of the spectrum.

**Dr. Jack Shaheen, author of Reel Bad Arabs and former
CBS news consultant on Middle East affairs -**

A film that replaces myths with humanity and humor -Casablanca Mon Amour offers an entertaining road map between yesteryear's Hollywood and today's Morocco.

CASABLANCA MON AMOUR

الدار البيضاء حبي

A FILM BY JOHN SLATTERY

LOGLINE:

An essay-road movie that offers a playful subversion of the traditional American "Hollywood goes to Morocco" story.

SYNOPSIS:

Casablanca Mon Amour is a modern road movie that encapsulates the more complex and fractured nature of living in a world where TV and wars compete for headlines and occupy imaginations.

Using movies as a road map between yesterday's Hollywood and today's Morocco, *Casablanca Mon Amour* offers a Moroccan perspective on the long and entwined relationship between Hollywood and The Arab/Muslim World.

Casablanca Mon Amour offers more than a dry critique of the impact of media on culture. Instead, the film takes a human and humorous look at the effects Hollywood films have on people's imaginations and affords Moroccan's (our movie set 'extras') an opportunity to talk back—which they do in intelligent, witty and wildly ingenious ways.

Casablanca Mon Amour uses the process of movie making as a way of turning the Great American Story on its head - and offering Hollywood and America a story about itself.

Filmed in Morocco • 79 mins • In Arabic & French with English subtitles

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

We are now two wars and more than ten years after the events of 9/11. And the landscape of the entire Middle East—of the world—radically changes every day.

Casablanca Mon Amour addresses what is perhaps the most pressing social issue of our time: The history, strength and quality of a particular relationship between an Arab/Muslim and a Western society. The relationship (between the U.S. and Morocco) is examined through the cultural lens of cinema.

From 1896 to 2000 over 1000 U.S. films showed Arab / Muslim characters. Of these, only 12 films showed positive characters, 52 were even handed, and more than 900 showed negative characters.

Casablanca Mon Amour offers a critical perspective—one often missing from the dialogue about Islamic World/West relations—on the unchallenged lineage of degrading images of Arabs in Hollywood movies. With a look toward how these images naturalize prejudicial attitudes toward Arab/Islamic culture in the U.S. as well as how audiences in Arab/Islamic countries interpret these images. Adding to the ongoing debate within the United States about America's national character and global role, the film connects to similar debates unfolding within the Muslim world.

The film examines two crucial questions:

1. By what means is America and American culture represented in other lands?
2. What stories do we export? What do they say about us, and what do they say about how we view others?

The story is told via Hollywood movie clips, found material from life on the street, comic behind-the-scenes moments, and quiet glimpses of rural life.

Casablanca Mon Amour mixes the planned with the un-planned, the road-movie with the essay, and offers Buster Keaton-like satire mixed with Kiarostami-esque connections

CONTACT

John Slattery

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ABOUT THE FILMMAKER:John Slattery (Producer/Director)

John began work in television as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Morocco, where he wrote and hosted a pilot for a social-issue TV series at the Moroccan National Institute of Television.

Professionally John has collaborated with a broad range of talented producers, DP's and organizations on a number of short and full-length films, and TV shows, including: two-time Academy Award ® winning Cinematographer Haskell Wexler ASC, PBS/WNET American Masters, and MTV.

John's latest film in post-production, an experimental documentary exploring homelessness and Chicago Soul music, was selected by BAVC's 4x10 preview program.

He holds an MFA from the Department of Film, Television, and Digital Media at University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

CAST AND CREW**Introducing** Abdel Il Adrissi and Hassan Ouazzani**Image** Fara Akrami**Sound** Jona Newhall**Edit** Michael Nouryeh**Music** Malhun de Meknes**Audio Post Production** Berkeley Sound Artists**Executive Producer** Leah Simon-Weisberg, Esq.
Stanford Center for Internet and Society, Fair Use Project**Produced and Directed by** John Slattery

San Francisco Film Society – Special Preview Screening Nov 2012
Dubai International Film Festival - World Premiere, Dec 2012
Middle East Film Now, Festival, Florence, Italy - European Premiere, Apr 2013
Montreal World Film Festival, - N. American Premiere Aug 2013
McGill University, Montreal, Canada, Aug 2013
Arab Film Festival, Harmony Gold Theatre, Los Angeles, Oct 2013
Arab Film Festival, Berkeley Landmark Theatre, Oct 2013
Arabian Sights Film Festival, Washington D.C. , Oct 2013
International Festival of Ethnographic Film (IFEFF), Sofia, Bulgaria, Nov 2013
Beeld Voor Beeld Festival, National Film Institute of the Netherlands, Dec 2013
Middle East North Africa Film Festival, Sofia, Bulgaria, Jan 2014
Palm Beach International Film Festival, Palm Beach Florida, April 2014
Göttingen International Ethnographic Film Festival, Göttingen, Germany, May 2014
Alliance Française, San Francisco March 2014
BBC Arabic TV Cinema Badila Program, Multi-Broadcast, Summer 2014
Institute for European Ethnology & Cultural Studies, Marburg, Germany, July 2014
African World Festival, presented by Arab American National Museum Detroit, MI Aug 2014
Louisville International Festival of Film, Louisville, KY, Oct 2014
Gig Harbor Film Festival, Gig Harbor, WA, Oct 2014
Tiburon Film Society, Sausalito, CA, Mar 2015
Ethnografilm, Cine 13 Theatre, Paris, France, Apr 2015
Taiwan International Ethnographic Film Festival, Taipei, Taiwan, Oct 2015
Pan African Film & Arts Festival, Los Angeles, CA, Feb 2016
Defy Film Festival, Nashville, TN Aug 2016